

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02218 310649Z

10

ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /070 W

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R 310605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3131

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 503

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNHCR, VN, VS

SUBJ: PRG REQUESTS AID FROM UNHCR

1. I HAD A LONG TALK WITH JACQUES CUENOD (UNHCR) MARCH 29 REGARDING HIS RECENT TRIPS TO NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. DURING HIS VISIT TO HANOI MARCH 14 TO 18 HE WAS ASKED BY THE PRG DELEGATION WHETHER THE UNHCR WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR ABOUT HALF A MILLION REFUGEES IN THE GROWING PRG ZONE. THIS WAS WELL BEFORE THE FALL OF DANANG BUT MAY WELL BE INDICATIVE OF NVN/PRG ATTITUDES.

2. I ALSO DISCUSSED LIKELIHOOD UNHCR WILL HAVE TO RE-ALLOCATE FUNDS IN THE LIGHT OF THE IMMENSITY OF THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THIS QUESTION IMPINGES ON LAOS ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS EARMARKED FOR THE LAOS/VIETNAM PROGRAM MUST BE REDIRECTED. ACCORDING TO CUENOD, DR. DAN HAS ASKED THAT \$3 MILLION CURRENTLY EARMARKED

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 02218 310649Z

FOR RESETTLEMENT PROJECTS (RTV) IN VIETNAM BE MADE

AVAILABLE TO MEET URGENT RELOCATION EXPENSES. THIS
CHANGE IN THE PLANNED UTILIZATION OF FUNDS MAY REQUIRE
CONSULTATION WITH DONOR COUNTRIES.

3. ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCE IN LAOS, WE
ANTICIPATE THAT THE UNHCR MAY WELL END UP PLAYING
A MAJOR ROLE ON BOTH SIDES IN ALLEVIATING MISERY AND
AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE THE MANNER IN WHICH CUENOD
HAS HANDLED UNHCR AFFAIRS IN LAOS HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY.
THE EXTENT TO WHICH UNHCR IS REALLY PREPARED TO
ACCEPT NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IS OUTSIDE OUR COMPETENCE
TO JUDGE BUT IT WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE TO SCRAMBLE TO DO
THE KIND OF JOB WHICH IS REQUIRED.
WHITEHOUSE

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